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stand. When efficient and honest men have been appointed receivers they have in a number of instances rehabilitated the road and made it a paying property, through the savings they have been able to effect.

Overbuilding and construction in advance of settlement, with fictitious capitalization are assigned as the most important causes of failure. The author does not expect to see any more rapid and reckless extensions, such as '72, '81, and '87 witnessed, so that the future is not likely to be so bad as the past, although the wrecks of past recklessness are to remain as disturbing factors for a long time.

He recommends careful public supervision of construction to prevent needless lines in the future, a codification of the laws of receiver-ship, a rigid limitation of the causes for which a receiver may be appointed, great care in the selection of the receivers, and a careful limitation of their powers. If possible, a court or special commission to handle all cases of defaulting roads should be constituted and a body of experts should be trained up by them to manage these great properties. Excellent reasons are adduced in support of the plan to have a permanent bureau of trained men to deal with these cases as they arise.

WILLIAM HILL.

Quibus Rebus Singulorum Atticae Pagorum Incolae Operam Dederint.

Scripsit CAROLUS SCHERLING. Lipsiae: Typis I. B. Hirschfeldi, MDCCCXCVII. 12mo.

THIS pamphlet is a thesis presented at Leipsic in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by the author. We learn from the *Vita* included in the book, that he had been a pupil of Professor Roscher, although for the most part a student of philology and archæology. As appears from the title of the thesis, the effort of the book is to present some account, drawn largely from the writers of classical antiquity, of the nature of the industry pursued by certain of the tribes of Attica. In three chapters (*De Agricultura et de Pecuaria*, *De Opificiis*, and *De Mercatura*) the principal means of obtaining a livelihood which were open to the inhabitants of Attica are discussed. The extent and character of the farming and grazing lands are established on the authority of contemporary Athenian publicists, the industrial arts pursued by laborers are enumerated, a complete list being given as an appendix, and the kinds and principal channels of such trade as existed are indi-

cated, although little detailed information concerning them can be afforded.

Dr. Scherling's pamphlet is a scholarly contribution to archæological economics, and should take rank with many of the recent publications of the so-called historical school.

H. PARKER WILLIS.

Minnesota: State, County, Township and City. By FRANK L. MCVEY, Minneapolis: University Book Store. 1898. 12mo, pp. x+83, with three maps and two diagrams.

A book of about ninety pages. It is just what it pretends to be "a handbook of information concerning the state, its government, officers and resources." "A compilation, and nothing more, of those facts and laws which every citizen should know." The first part is given to the state, setting forth its position, territory, wealth, population, and government. The second part is devoted to the county, its organization and government; the third part treats of the town, the school district, the village, the city, giving classification, organization, officers, powers, salaries, etc.

The information is gathered from reliable sources and the digest and outlines of government are well arranged and clearly stated. The work is excellently adapted to its purpose "to give to students and teachers a sort of laboratory book for use in civil government."

F. A. C.

Congressional Committees. By LAUROS G. McCONACHIE, PH.D. (Library of Economics and Politics.) New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1898. 12mo, pp. xiv+441.

THIS is a painstaking and exhaustive treatise. Introductory to the general thesis Dr. McConachie has traced the evolution of the committee system in the colonies and provisional governments prior to the establishment of the federal constitution. After showing the relation of the congressional committee to the government and to the interests of the people, he takes up its development in the house and senate separately. While the author has not given special emphasis to the economic importance of such study, his standpoint being one of political science, the investigation may well be utilized by the student